

REMARKS

All claims stand rejected as supposedly unpatentable because of US Pat. No. 6821613 to Kagi et al. (“Kagi”).

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Claim 1, which is the sole independent claim, has been amended. It is suggested that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited reference, and thus all of the claims are allowable over the cited reference.

New claim 1 with the **features a – f** is amended by the underlined expressions:

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- a A structural component made of long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material with integrated continuous fiber-reinforcements, the component comprising:
- b - at least three separate, single individually integrated, shaped continuous-fiber-profiles, having a lengthwise extension and being separated from each other,
- c - the at least three single continuous-fiber-profiles along their length are extending into different directions with a distance between each other and are running together at a location and are forming a non-flat connecting area,
- d - the at least three single continuous-fiber-profiles, at the location where they run together, defining a three-dimensionally developed intersection point,
- e - wherein at the intersection point at least a first continuous-fiber-profile lies in an upper plane of the intersection point, at least a second continuous-fiber-profile lies a lower plane of the intersection point, and wherein at least a third continuous-fiber-profile with a vertical orientation is located between the first and second continuous-fiber-profiles;
- f - wherein from the intersection point the first and the second continuous-fiber-profiles along their length are extending into a first direction and the third continuous-fiber-profile along its length is extending into a different second direction,
- g - wherein the continuous-fiber-profiles are joined together by the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material at the intersection point.

These limitations are clearly shown in the figures, especially in Figs. 1a, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11.

In feature b: there is a limitation that "the single ... continuous fiber-profiles have a lengthwise extension and are separated from each other".

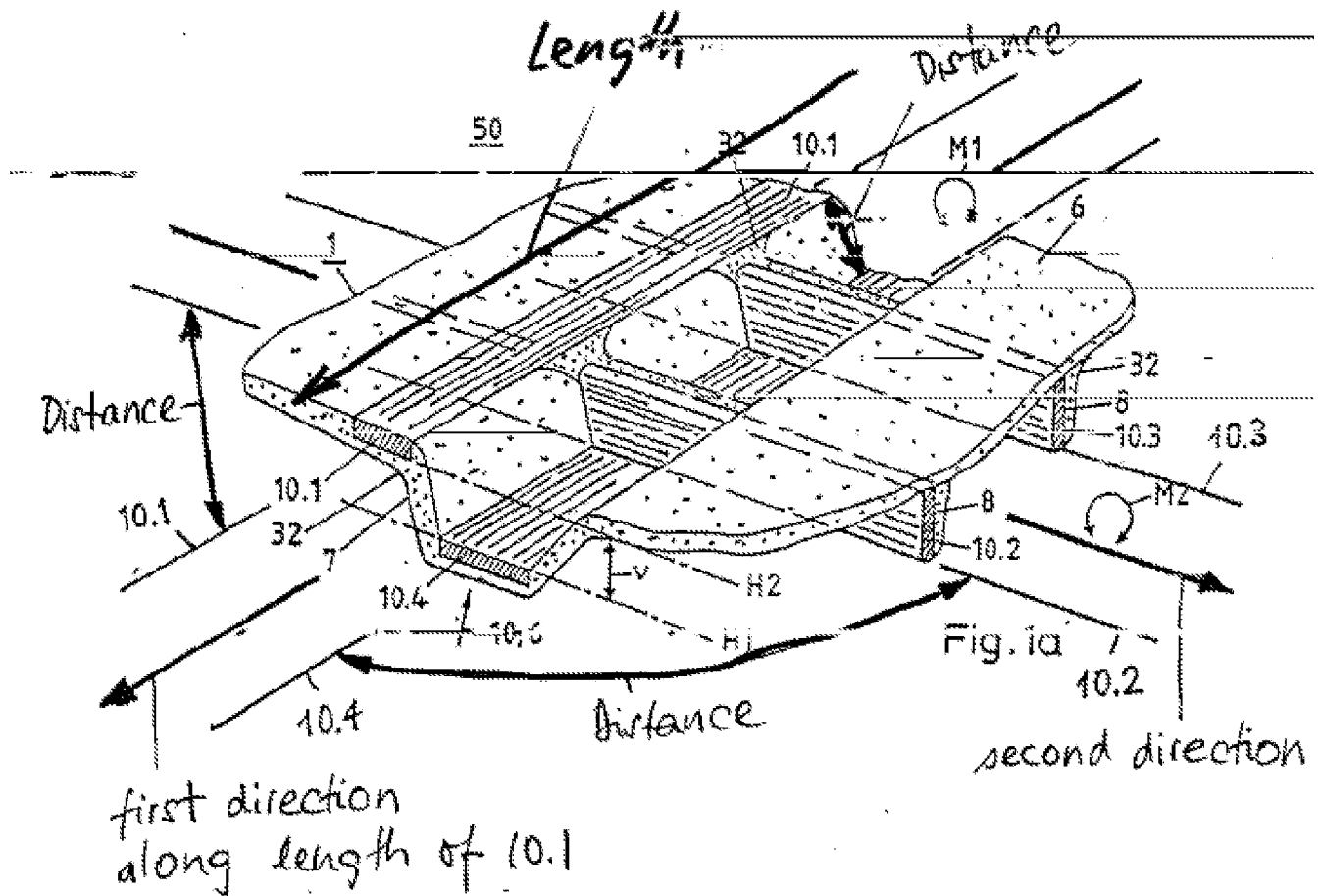
- 5 **In feature c:** there is a limitation that the continuous-fiber-profiles "along their length are extending into different directions with a distance between each other...and are forming a non-flat connecting area".

Since the continuous-fiber-profiles are extending into different directions consequently there is a
10 distance between them.

In feature f: a limitation has been added to clearly specify that the single continuous-fiber-profiles are extending into different directions along their length:

- 15 the first and the second continuous-fiber-profile along their length are extending into a first direction an the third continuous-fiber-profile along its length is extending into a different second direction.

In the enclosed illustration relating to Fig. 1a (and also in Fig. 8a) the horizontal single continuous-
20 fiber-profiles 10.1, 10.4 along their length are extending into a first direction and the single profile 10.2 (with a vertical orientation) along its length is extending into a different second direction, and hence there is a distance between them.



Reference Kāgi (US 6,821,613)

- 5 The cited Reference Kāgi ('613) does not disclose nor indicate nor show in any Figure such a structure. The Reference Kāgi ('613) discloses an entirely different structural component where continuous-fiber strands are interconnected and have flat internal connecting areas (7) between two continuous-fiber strands (3.1, 3.2). All these connecting areas (7) are flat.

10 Nowhere in Kāgi is disclosed:

- at least three separate, single continuous-fiber-profiles, having a lengthwise extension ...

- the at least three single continuous-fiber-profiles along their length are extending into different directions with a distance between each other and are running together at a location and are forming a non-flat connection area,
 - defining a three-dimensionally developed intersection point, ...
- 5 ● wherein from the intersection point the first and the second continuous-fiber-profiles along their length are extending into a first direction and the third continuous-fiber-profile along its length is extending into a different second direction.

Specifically the cited Fig. 8 and Fig. 24c of the Reference Kägei each only show one single combined
10 profile structure along its length extending into only one direction and without such a three-dimensionally developed intersection point (50).

Fig. 8 shows one profile structure 26 which consists of three continuous-fiber strands 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 which are entirely fused together along their length and which form one single U-shaped profile, and
15 which along its length is extending into one (first) direction. As is illustrated in this enclosed Fig. 8 there are no three single continuous-fiber-profiles separated from each other and extending into a first and a second direction. (The ribs 28 of this profile 26 consist of long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material.)

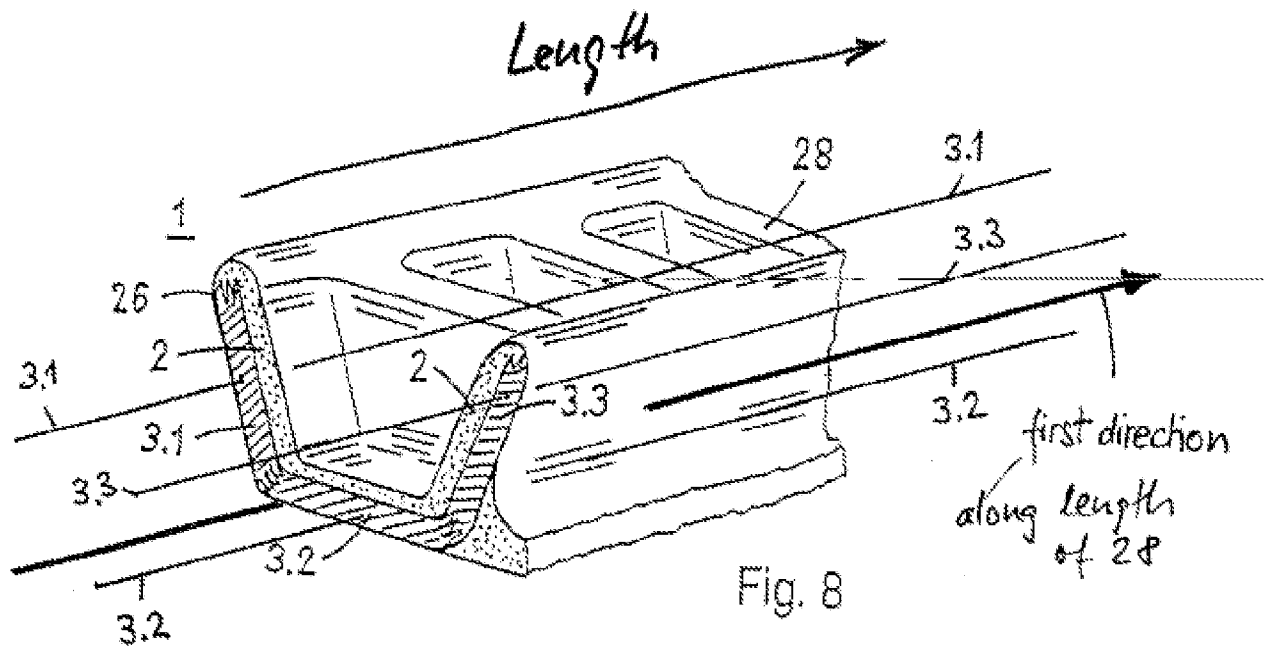
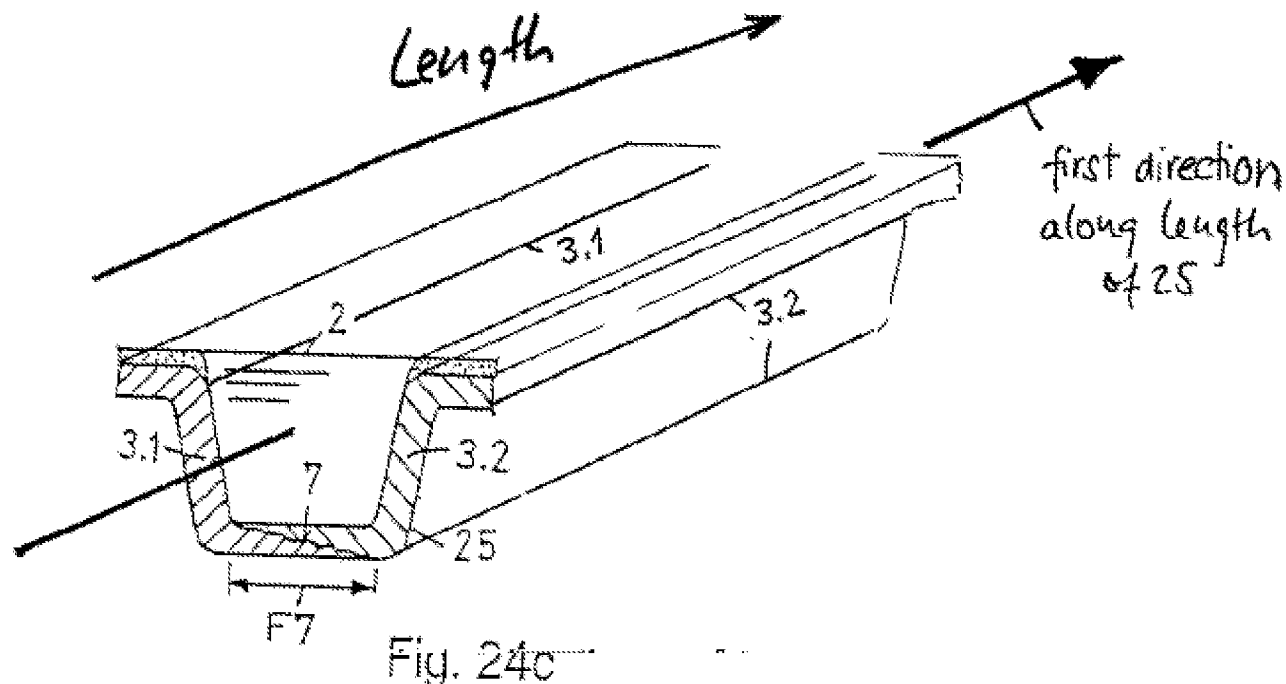


Fig. 24c shows a cross-section of an U-shaped combined profile 25, very similar to the profile 26 of Fig. 8, but consisting of only two continuous-fiber strands 3.1, 3.2 which are entirely fused together over their length and with ribs of long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material 2. This combined profile 25 with the two fused together continuous-fiber strands 3.1, 3.2 lengthwise only extends into one (first) direction along the length of the profile 25 - as is illustrated in the enclosed Fig. 24c.



Here also there are no at least three single continuous-fiber-profiles, separated with a distance from each other, along their extending into different directions and forming a three-dimensionally developed intersection point according to features b – f of new claim 1.

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Also in all further Figs. of Kägi ('613) there is no indication of the structural component according to the invention with all features b, c, d, e, f, g.

Since the new amended independent claim 1 should be allowable also the depending claims 2 – 3 and 5
10 – 19 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

15 /s/

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